



State of Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence

Jim Doyle, Governor
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Wednesday, August 25, 2010

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Riding to School on Sunshine

Wisconsin is home to the nation's largest fleet of plug-in hybrid school buses

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today that Wisconsin is now home to the nation's largest fleet of plug-in hybrid school buses. A grand total of 24 plug-in hybrid school buses will call Wisconsin home – 11 of which will be on the road starting the first week of school. In addition to improved fuel efficiency, the plug-in hybrid school buses last longer, have lower maintenance costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 to 40 percent.

"Hybrid electric school buses are helping our school districts save money while reducing energy use and cleaning our air," Governor Doyle said. "Through this effort, Wisconsin is continuing to lead the nation toward a clean energy future."

A plug-in hybrid school bus' battery system works in tandem with a standard diesel engine. This reduces engine wear-and-tear and doubles fuel efficiency. The battery system is recharged by a solar recharging station installed at the school bus terminal. Each station generates more than 60,000 kWh of energy annually, which is enough to keep the batteries fully charged or enough to power 6 average size homes.

Today, Oconomowoc Transport Company unveiled their eleven buses and solar recharging station at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Plus, showing momentum in the plug-in hybrid field, Riteway Bus Service had a ground-breaking ceremony in the afternoon, where a similar solar recharging station and fleet of 13 plug-in hybrid schools buses will call home in the near future. IC Corporation out of Warrenville, IL, built the buses. Waukesha-based Renewable Energy Solutions and MSI General Corporation out of Oconomowoc are involved in the design and installation of the solar recharging stations.

The purchase of the plug-in hybrid school buses and the solar recharging stations was funded in part by \$3.6 million from the Wisconsin Clean Transportation Program (WCTP), a Recovery and Reinvestment Act program.

The WCTP was competitively awarded \$15 million last August through the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program to help fund the purchase of 339 alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles for 31 Wisconsin fleets, and is fully funding the installation of 23 alternative fuel refueling sites. WCTP is administered jointly by the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence and Wisconsin Clean Cities – Southeast Area.

For more information, visit www.energyindependence.wi.gov or www.wicleancities.org

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